

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-07

FEA-01 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 SS-15 /119 W

-----052104 042187 /61

R 051136Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3154

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 3592

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER: BARRY COMMONER VS THE COMMUNIST PARTY

REF: MILAN 351

1. PROF. BARRY COMMONER, SUBSEQUENT TO CRITICIZING HANDLING OF SEVESO DIOXIN AFFAIR (SEE REFTTEL) HAS TAKEN ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AT A PUBLIC MEETING ON NUCLEAR POWER SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) IN THE SMALL TOWN OF MONTALTO DI CASTRO (THE DESIGNATED SITE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NUCLEAR REACTORS), COMMONER STRONGLY CRITICIZED ITALY'S DECISION TO RELY ON NUCLEAR POWER AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE, LARGELY ON GROUNDS THAT NUCLEAR SAFETY NOT SUFFICIENTLY PROVEN AND BECAUSE CAPITAL-INTENSIVE NATURE OF INVESTMENT REQUIRED WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR CAPITAL-POOR ITALY.

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2. DURING LONG AND EVIDENTLY HEATED MEETING (LASTING UNTIL 2 AM), PCI REPRESENTATIVES STRONGLY DEFENDED ITALY'S NUCLEAR POWER CHOICE AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS, SPECIFICALLY US LIGHT-WATER, ENRICHED URANIUM REACTOR DESIGNS (GE'S BWR AND WESTINGHOUSE'S PWR) WHICH WILL COMPRISE THE BULK OF ITALY'S PROPOSED REACTOR CAPACITY. IN THE END, PCI SPOKESMAN, INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARIANS SILVO MIANA AND LELIO GRASSUCCI, WERE

ROUNDLY DEFEATED AS A PRO-COMMONER MOTION CALLING FOR A HALT TO EFFORTS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION WAS APPROVED "UNANIMOUSLY BY APPLAUSE AND RAISING OF HANDS".

3. COMMENT: COMMONER'S ACTIONS MAY ENCOURAGE FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND EXACERBATE AN ALREADY DIFFICULT SITUATION. BARRING EXTRAORDINARY PARLIAMENTARY INTERVENTION, WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY, OPPONENTS OF THE MONALTO DI CASTRO NUCLEAR PLANT HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL AVENUES TO BLOCK THE INITIATION OF CONSTRUCTION. PCI HAD CALLED THE MEETING IN AN EVIDENT ATTEMPT TO (A) EXPLAIN PCI'S SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR POWER AND (B) REASSURE LOCAL RESIDENTS THAT NUCLEAR POWER WAS BOTH NECESSARY AND SAFE. THAT THE PCI WAS HANDED A SET-BACK BY AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST IS A BIT OF IRONY THAT DID NOT PASS UNNOTICED IN THE PRESS. BEAUDRY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Reference:** 77 MILAN 351  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NUCLEAR POWER: BARRY COMMONER VS THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
**TAGS:** ENRG, IT, US, (COMMONER, BARRY)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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